

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

(Mr. GEPHARDT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, for months now, I've had a hard time understanding how the Republican Members of this House could push a budget that demands huge sacrifices from the many, to lavish huge tax cuts on the few.

I've had a hard time understanding how the Republicans could double Medicare premiums and carve up middle class incomes like a Halloween pumpkin—all to give about \$20,000 a year to people who earn half-a-million dollars a year.

Above all, I've had a hard time understanding how any Member of this House could so brazenly and shamelessly turn their backs on the middle class to dole out new perks and privileges for the wealthy.

But now, I'm beginning to understand where all this injustice comes from. My Republican colleague, FREDERICK HEINEMAN of North Carolina, has given us a unique window onto the Republican world view—and why it's so weighted toward wealth and privilege.

According to Congressman HEINEMAN, his own salary—more than \$180,000 a year, and I quote, “does not make me rich. That does not make me middle class. In my opinion that makes me lower middle class.” Never mind that he earns more money than 97 percent of all Americans.

Congressman HEINEMAN then builds on this delusional world view, to tell us that someone earning \$750,000 a year is simply middle class. Never mind that they earn more than 99 percent of all Americans.

I suppose in Congressman HEINEMAN's fiscal fantasy land, slashing Medicare, cutting student loans, and kicking the elderly out of nursing homes—all to pay for tax cuts for people earning hundreds of thousands of dollars per year—is a true blue middle class agenda.

But if you live in the real world, it's just plain wrong. The Republicans just don't get it. If they would step out and talk to hard-working, struggling families every once in a while, they'd understand why their views are so radical and extreme.

And then maybe they'd learn that for the vast majority of Americans, the Republican budget is more than unfair—it's more than a bunch of silly mistakes and assumptions—it's an absolute outrage. And in the name of common decency, it deserves to be denounced and defeated.

THE 104TH CONGRESS KEEPS ITS WORD

(Mr. NORWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, in 1993, the liberal Democrats of the 103d Con-

gress battled long and hard to raise taxes. They were successful to the tune of \$260 billion. The American people didn't like that at all. So we had us a revolution at the ballot box. A lot of the Members of the 103d Congress didn't get reelected because of the tax increase. The 104th Congress has a lot of new faces, including mine. The American people asked us to balance the budget; they asked us to return some of the money they send to Washington.

So Mr. Speaker, what will we do for the people this week? In the budget reconciliation, we will pass a balanced budget; we will cut Federal spending; and we will give back \$245 billion to the working men and women of this country. That's less than the 103d Congress took out, but it will go to help families, seniors, and the middle class. It is simply a matter of keeping our word to the American people and doing as they wish.

THE COMEBACK CITY

(Mr. STOKES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, my good friend and colleague, JOHN LEWIS, stood in this well and delivered a passionate speech supporting the Atlanta Braves as they landed in Cleveland for game three of the World Series. For those who might have gone to bed early last evening, let me sum things up for you.

In comeback city, last night, the wind-chill factor hovered at 29 degrees. A little help from Mother Nature, Eddie Murray, Kenny Lofton, and José Mesa, proved to be just what the Indians needed. The team was magnificent in winning game three of the World Series.

Mr. Speaker, to my colleague from Atlanta, JOHN LEWIS, I would say, It ain't over 'til it's over. To the fans and players from the Atlanta Braves, I say, Welcome to Cleveland, the comeback city.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

(Mr. ROTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, I have taken this time to make a point. If we want a strong economy, then we have to act now. Travel and tourism is the fastest growing industry in America and in the world. Yet look at what other countries are spending on just advertising. Greece for example \$143 million. The United States is way down to \$16 million. What does that mean? That means this year we are losing a large market share. Look at what is taking place. In 1993 we had almost 19 percent; now we have less than 16 percent, and it is going down.

We want to capture this market share because what this means is that we are losing \$177,000 and \$2 billion of revenue right here. What we have to do is to have a strategy. That is why on October 30 and 31 we are having this large White House conference on travel and tourism. This is the most important conference we are going to have by far this decade because it is addressing the economy of the 1990's and the 21st century. We now have in our Travel and Tourism Caucus 304 Members. I am asking Members to join because this will be a historic week and a historic conference.

LET US HAVE A VOTE ON YUGOSLAVIA

(Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I spent the weekend visiting American troops in what was Yugoslavia and those troops who are on the ground today in Italy preparing to go into what was Yugoslavia. Mr. Speaker, we are doing a lot of important things in this body. I do not think anything we do is silly. But there is nothing more important than deciding the fate of those young American men and women who have given their word to defend our country.

If this Congress does nothing, 25,000 young American men and women will be sent into a situation where they know many of them will die. This Congress will have shirked its responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, we can bring that bill to the floor. We deserve a vote. Every Member of this body should decide whether or not those young men and women should be called upon, many of them to die, and a peace accord that will not bring peace to that part of the world. Tito could not do it in 50 years. The United States of America cannot do it in 1. We have to vote on this issue.

NO UNITED STATES TROOPS TO BOSNIA

(Mr. RAMSTAD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly endorse the remarks of the preceding speaker, the distinguished gentleman from Mississippi. I believe, as he does, that the President is on the verge of making the mistake of a lifetime. Without clearly defining our mission in Bosnia, without proving a compelling national interest or without a precise plan of action, the President is about to commit 20,000 to 25,000 American combat troops to Bosnia.

Mr. Speaker, U.S. troops should not be ordered to keep a peace where no peace exists. If Members believe peace has been achieved in the former Yugoslavia, then Members believe Elvis is

alive. The President is clearly jumping the gun in committing troops to Bosnia. It is a dangerous move and has all the makings of a very, very deadly quagmire.

Mr. Speaker, there is no plan. There is no compelling national interest to send young American men and women to die in Bosnia. Mr. Speaker, there is no compelling reason to take this action.

Let us lift the arms embargo against the Bosnian Moslems so they can defend themselves, but let us not place United States troops in a deadly situation. Let us not spend \$2 billion of American taxpayers money.

CONGRESS CUT NOT ONE PENNY FROM ISRAEL OR EGYPT

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, everybody realizes that cuts must be made, but there is something definitely wrong here. Congress cuts seniors in America. Congress cuts housing in America. Congress cuts kids in America. Congress cuts education in America. Congress cuts farmers in America. Congress cuts services in America. Congress cuts bridges and roads in America.

I might be able to accept that, but, on the other hand, Congress did not cut one penny from the aid to Egypt or Israel. Now, a Congress that can find money for Israel and Egypt while cutting all of this in America, in my opinion, is not only misdirected but out of touch with America.

I am going to vote "no" on this budget. We should treat everybody alike; even if it is like dogs, treat everybody alike.

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IT IS TIME TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

(Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, this week the House will debate H.R. 2491, the fiscal year 1996 budget reconciliation. For the first time in a generation, Congress will pass a balanced budget. By the year 2002, the deficit will be zero and we will be on our way to paying down the national debt.

Mr. Speaker, this is the right thing to do. For the first time in 25 years, Congress has run out of excuses for not doing the right thing for America's future. Previous Congresses totally avoided the most basic financial responsibilities. They squandered billions on frivolous, ineffective, and repetitive bureaucracies. They repeatedly raised taxes, making it appear that the problem was the American people's problem and not their own. Americans paid 37 percent of their income in Federal

taxes in 1995. Today their total is over 40 percent with Federal, State, and local taxes combined.

Last November, the American people said "enough." Republicans campaigned on a promise to balance the budget, and we will keep that promise. No excuses. No gimmicks. It is time to balance the budget.

A QUICK QUIZ

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. As we do budget reconciliation, a quick quiz, Mr. Speaker, three questions:

First, why are Republicans cutting Medicare and hurting seniors? A—to save the Medicare Program? B—to balance the budget? C—to pay for a tax cut for the rich?

If my colleagues said "C" they are right. The Republicans are cutting Medicare to help their rich friends.

Second, who do Republicans care most about? A—senior citizens? B—America's children? C—the B-2 bomber?

Again, if my colleagues said "C" they are correct. While the Republicans are cutting Federal funding to Medicare and education, they are increasing funding for the B-2 bomber, what even the Pentagon says we do not need.

Third, which programs will be protected under Republican proposals? A—Social Security? B—Medicare? C—Pork barrel projects in Republican districts?

Again, the answer is "C." While Republicans are hurting seniors by reducing their Social Security and Medicare benefits, they are conducting business as usual by increasing funding for fat cat projects.

Well, Mr. Speaker, all three answers were "C."

I guess the "C" stands for cuts—Republican cuts. Cut the heart out of our seniors by raiding Medicare. Cut the heart out of our children's education. Cut the heart out of America's future.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE UNDERSTAND IT IS TIME FOR FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to the gentleman from New York [Mr. ENGEL] play a game that really should be called, Who does he think he's fooling? I at least was happy it was a multiple-choice test because we will provide seniors something that has been lacking in health care for the last three decades, a choice, the most fundamental element of American freedom, the freedom to choose what health care plan is best for them, and once again, Mr. Speaker, only in Washington, with the twisted Washington mathematics of

the guardians of the old order, can an increase from \$4,800 this year to \$6,700 in the year 2002 be considered a cut. How is that a cut? It is an increase of almost \$2,000.

Mr. Speaker, the American people will not be fooled. They understand it is time for fundamental change. That is why we were sent here, and that is why we will change things for the better.

THIS IS NOT A FAIR BUDGET

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, good morning. Balancing the budget may be a good idea. Tax breaks for the wealthy is not. I want to talk about Medicaid.

In this so-called reconciliation bill the Republicans cut \$182 billion out of Medicaid. Now some people are saying, "There you go, talking about the poor again." No, I am talking about the elderly, the disabled, and the blind. They had not one public hearing. They cut \$182 billion. They tell us, well, it is to make things better for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, the future is now. The future is my parents, my colleagues' parents. It is my colleagues' parents, my colleagues' grandparents, my colleagues' aunts, and my colleagues' uncles who are in these nursing homes. In the year 2002, when they tell us they will have a great balanced budget, they will also be spending 30 percent less on Medicaid. They also are eliminating the standards that protect seniors from oversaturation, protect their nutrition, protect their health standards in nursing homes.

The other night I met with the Alzheimer's support group. They are worried. They are concerned that they may have to spend their children's college education to support their parents in nursing homes. They are concerned that the elderly are sometimes eating cat food because they cannot afford it.

This is not a fair budget, and they worsen the pain by adding tax breaks for the rich. We need to protect our seniors. Reject the Republican budget approach.

REPUBLICAN MAJORITY DELIVERS CLINTON'S CAMPAIGN PROMISE FOR A TAX CUT

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton's reelection campaign is now in full swing, so once again he has flip-flopped his position on taxes. Now the President admits that he raised taxes too much in his 1993 budget. Let us listen to what the pundits around this Nation are saying:

Eleanor Clift said, "This is just one notch below 'Read my lips.'"